



# USDA BROILER MARKET NEWS REPORT

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## NATIONAL BROILER MARKET AT-A-GLANCE

Majority prices were trending higher in the East, unchanged elsewhere. Trade sentiment was fully steady in the East, steady in all other areas. Retail demand was slow to moderate, best for features, and food service was moderate to good. Supplies were in good balance to well cleared due to reduced holiday schedules and plant closures. In the parts structure, trading was light to fair with market conditions being assessed. Wings were tight and moving strong at premium levels. Breast items and dark meat were at least adequate or available with mixed interest. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mixed, but mostly desirable weights.

**Preliminary report** of prices negotiated for trucklot sales of ready-to-cook broiler/fryers fob and delivered to first receivers at major market areas week of 01/05/04-01/09/04 (cents per lb)

### US GRADE A (Including branded product)

AREAS	MAJORITY	RANGE	WTD AVG	LOADS
Delivered to First Receivers				
Chicago	56.00-59.00	56.00-69.00	59.13	24
Los Angeles	74.00			
New York	63.00-65.00			
<b>Southeast Area FOB Dock Equivalent</b>				
Mississippi	68.00-69.50	56.00-70.00	68.48	76

**GEORGIA F.O.B. DOCK PRICES** Georgia f.o.b. dock quoted price on broilers/fryers for this week's trading is 69.00 cents based on ice-packed USDA grade "A" sized 2 1/2 to 3 pound birds.

### PRELIMINARY FOB DOCK OR EQUIVALENT

LOADS	RANGE	FRIDAY PRELIM. WTD. AVG.
805	64.15-73.00	68.94
Georgia f.o.b. dock confirmed preliminary weighted average price on ice packed parts:		
ITEM	(CENTS PER POUND)	VOLUME (000 POUNDS)
LINE RUN TENDERS	202.50	1,200
BREASTS - B/S	170.00	4,538
BREASTS - WHOLE	89.00	1,253
THIGH MEAT - B/S	92.50	925
LEG QUARTERS	30.50	6,340
WINGS	104.00	2,511

This information is supplied by the GA Dept. of Agriculture's poultry market news service.

**MIDWEST** Preliminary majority prices for next week's delivery were unchanged in Chicago. Whole broiler/fryer trade sentiment was steady. Offerings were light for the limited trade interest. Retail demand was mostly slow but adequate. Retail demand was light to moderate and expected to improve going into next week and the first of the month business. Food service demand was in a full range, best in Chicago and parts of Ohio. Floor stocks were mostly adequate to occasionally ample. Weights were desirable. Supplies of wings were tight, balance of parts items adequate. The market tone was fully steady to firm on wings, and generally steady on balance of items.

**SOUTHERN** Trade sentiment was mixed, but at least steady. Post-holiday demand was light to fair, best for retail ads and first of the month, with further developments being monitored. Supplies were in good balance to well cleared with most plants operating today, and resuming full time schedules next week. In the parts structure, wings were tight and moving well. Breast items were readily available, and dark meat was mixed, but obtainable. In production areas, live supplies were moderate at mostly desirable weights.

**NORTHEAST** Trucklot buying activity on ready-to-cook whole broiler/fryers was fair to moderate entering the weekend. Offerings of all sizes remained in very close balance and were clearing well with premiums noted. Movement through retail and distributive channels was fair to moderate. The market tone was fully steady. In the parts complex, breast items were available at discounted levels. Dark meat cuts were at least sufficient. Wings were short of full needs.

**WESTERN** The market tone was steady with trading for next week at generally unchanged prices. Offerings adequate. Retailer demand fairly good. Dealers expected moderate weekend carryovers. Ads this week:

**Southern California-** California grown wholebody 77, boneless breasts 177-199, marinated 197, Boneless thigh 199, boneless leg 119, breasts 199, leg quarters 37-77, thighs 67-129, drums 57-129, 5# bag 295, wings IQF 4# 599; deli cooked- 12pc fried mixed 599.

**Northern California-** Whole cutup 139, boneless breasts 299, breasts 199, thighs 99, drums 99.

**Arizona-** California grown wholebody 99, boneless breasts 187-399, Boneless thigh 199, thighs 99-129, drums 99-129, wings IQF 4# 599.

**DELMARVA** Movement of ready-to-cook whole birds was generally noted as good. Offerings were reduced in availability due to plants curtailing schedules, and were in good balance to well cleared. Live supplies were moderate; weights were light to heavy, mostly desirable to light. Processor schedules were very heavy when combined with operations planned for Saturday. Less than trucklot asking prices were unchanged at 64 to 74 cents. Trade sentiment was fully steady. In the parts complex, wings were tight. Other items were irregularly balanced, but about adequate overall.

\*BROILER/FRYER CURRENT NEGOTIATED PRICES FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY INCLUDES MOSTLY MULTIPLE-DROP SHIPMENTS OF BRANDED AND WING TAGGED TO NEW YORK CITY FROM DELMARVA

### BRANDED U.S. GRADE A

RANGE	61-75
WEIGHTED AVERAGE	65.94
NO. OF BOXES	5,756
CUMULATIVE	12/29/03-01/02/04 66.30
	12/30/02-01/03/03 59.71
NO. OF BOXES	12/21/03-01/02/04 31,565
	12/30/02-01/03/03 37,409

\*7 of 7 plants reporting.

**SOUTHERN STATES BROILER/FRYER PARTS** F.O.B. DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, ICED-PACKED, PRICES SHOWN ARE DAY OF SHIPMENT (INCLUDES CURRENT AND PRIOR NEGOTIATIONS), TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUME, CENTS PER POUND.

ITEM	POUNDS (000)	RANGE	MAJORITY	WTD AVG	POUNDS (000)	WEEKLY WTD AVG
BREAST - B/S	892	132.00-223.00	134-139	136.99	3,458	136.46
TENDERLOINS	231	140.00-216.00	140-147	149.97	935	149.94
BREAST - LINE RUN	451	82.00-93.00	83-84	84.09	704	83.85
FRONT HALVES	TOO FEW TO REPORT				255	79.43
LEGS	114	35.00-50.00	35-37	37.59	426	37.41
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	550	25.00-29.00	25-26	25.58	2,200	25.58
LEG QUARTERS (4/10)	1,015	28.00-32.00	29-31	29.75	4,145	29.66
WINGS (WHOLE)	295	101.00-107.00	102-105	104.42	1,180	102.42
WINGS (CUT)	283	115.00-122.00	115-119	117.99	1,610	114.79
DRUMSTICKS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				71	55.07
THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				113	52.34
B/S THIGHS	TOO FEW TO REPORT				405	90.31

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WHOLE BODY INDEX BASED ON SOUTHERN STATES PARTS TRADING FOR JANUARY 02, 2004— F.O.B. DOCK.

RANGE	TODAY'S AVERAGE	5-DAY AVERAGE
50.50-56.00	52.74	52.54

The Index is intended solely as an indicator of values for commodity-type product and does not represent industry's willingness to sell or ability to buy.

**NORTHEAST BROILER/FRYER PARTS** Trucklot buying activity was generally fair at best entering the weekend as dealers assessed the market following the holiday down time. Offerings of breast items remained available at discounted levels. Dark meat cuts were at least sufficient. Wings were in very good balance and commanding premiums. The market tone was fully steady to instances firm on wings, cautious on breast items and about steady on the balance.

PRICES PAID PER LB, ICE PACKED AND CO2 PACKED BRO/FRY PARTS, DELIVERED TO FIRST RECEIVERS IN POOL TRUCKLOT AND TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES.

ITEM	CURRENT NEG TRADING*	WTD AVG**	VOL/LBS	WEEKLY WTD AVG	WEEKLY VOL/LBS
BREAST - B/S	145	146.24	755,862	145.80	2,439,288
TENDERLOINS	145	146.92	72,160	144.99	353,950
BREAST - WITH RIBS	74-75	80.86	162,800	78.18	717,540
BREAST - LINE RUN	74	74.40	77,120	73.24	381,720
LEGS	38-39	36.95	258,480	37.25	1,082,920
LEG QUARTERS (BULK)	29-30	29.70	343,562	29.64	1,465,072
DRUMSTICKS	36-37	38.94	175,900	38.78	493,626
THIGHS	35-36	39.21	63,360	40.25	258,860
B/S THIGHS	85-86	89.44	95,440	88.46	301,400
WINGS (WHOLE)	98-99	103.06	116,200	100.23	521,100
BACKS AND NECKS (STRIPPED)	10-12	12.00	41,680	11.93	140,840
LIVERS (5 POUND TUBS)	35-40	38.04	18,960	36.52	53,990
GIZZARDS (HEARTS)	60-65	69.22	17,720	69.32	87,970

INCLUDES: NY CITY METRO. AREA, RI, NORTHERN NJ, MA, CT, PA (NORTHEAST OF HARRISBURG). \* TODAY'S NEG. SALES AS OF 11:30 A.M.

\*\* WTD AVG PRICE OF ALL GRADES AND BRANDS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED, OR TO BE SHIPPED AS OF 1:30 P.M.

#### ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER OF BROILER-FRYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

	ESTIMATED	ACTUAL	AVG WT	ACTUAL	AVG WTS
	01/02 01/01	12/31 12/28	12/31 12/28	12/26	12/24
ALA	4,503 Holiday	3,404 3,912	5.20 5.26	4,806	4.85
ARK	6,482 (A)	4,689 5,367	5.19 5.17	5,172	4.77
DELMARVA	3,374 Holiday	1,491 2,296	5.29 5.62	3,039	5.35
KY-LA-TN	1,890 (A)	1,846 2,016	4.73 5.06	1,881	4.56
MISS	3,080 Holiday	2,727 3,121	5.21 5.47	3,073	4.80
NC	3,332 (A)	2,117 2,436	6.20 6.33	2,921	6.25
TEXAS	3,090 (A)	2,453 2,450	4.90 4.98	2,983	5.02
TOTAL	25,751 3,795	18,727 21,598	5.23 5.38	23,875	5.03
MON-FRI	89,252(B)			75,605(B)	

(A) Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations

(B) Weekly cumulative for states listed above.

Broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for 02-Jan 04 and 3-Jan-04 is estimated to be 38,526,000 up 7.53 percent from a week ago and up 1.1 percent from a year ago. (Last week 35,827,000; last year 38,125,000)

Weekly broiler-fryer slaughter under federal inspection for the weekending 03-Jan-04 is estimated to be 133,267,000 head up 18 percent from a week ago, and up 5 from a year ago (Last week 113,075,000 Last year 126,793,000)

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (L.A. AREA) PROCESSED POULTRY, DELIVERED TO RETAILERS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	91-97
ROASTERS 4# & UP	81-95
HENS UNDER 5#	
HENS OVER 5#	60-63
DUCKS	
RABBITS-WHOLE	
RABBITS-CUT UP	

#### SAN FRANCISCO PROCESSED POULTRY DELIVERED TO RESTAURANTS AND INSTITUTIONS

	RANGE
FRESH FRYERS	101-103
DRY PACK	99-100
ICE PACK	105
ROASTERS 4# & UP	89-105
DRY PACK	89
ICE PACK	91
HENS OVER 5#	152-175
DUCKS	

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED** Under federal inspection, classified by live wt., week ending 20-Dec-03 (Preliminary),

	(A) Fast food/ Food service	(B) Retail	(C) Deboning
	4.20 Lbs & down	4.21-5.25 Lbs	5.26 Lbs & Up
-----THOUSANDS-----			
Head	14,351	12,189	25,303
Avg Weight	3.64	4.60	6.19
% of total /1	28%	24%	49%

## COMPARISONS

Last week	25,306	29,485	42,058
Avg Weight	3.69	4.46	6.49
% of total /1	26%	30%	43%
Same week, yr ago /2	19,631	20,191	31,672
Avg Weight	3.87	4.69	6.05
% of total /1	27%	28%	44%
To date/2003	1,180,466	1,221,823	2,242,222
To date/2002	1,289,474	1,137,281	2,084,283

/1 May not total to 100% due to rounding. /2 Comparable week.  
 (A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include cornish hens.  
 (B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.  
 (C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

**LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION** W/E 27-Dec-03 (PRELIMINARY)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS	DUCKS
-----THOUSANDS-----					
HEAD	113,075	918	808	1,726	374
AVG WT	5.22	3.39	8.24	5.66	6.83
LAST WEEK	154,431	1,340	1,509	2,849	440
SAME WK YR AGO	107,976	967	678	1,645	296
AVG WT	5.10	3.23	7.94	5.17	6.91
TO-DATE/2003	7,932,277	72,895	72,119	145,014	21,466
TO-DATE/2002	7,986,625	89,440	72,815	162,255	21,547

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 145.8 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 114.4 million head or 31.4 million head less than or 78% of estimated fryers available.

**EAST PETERSBURG POULTRY** - DATE OF AUCTION: DEC 31, 2003  
 PRICES PAID PER POUND, EXCEPT AS NOTED

\*\*\*AI PAPERS REQUIRED FOR ALL OUT OF STATE POULTRY\*\*\*

\*\*NOTICE: Effective January 8, 2004, this report will be renamed as:

MISC. POULTRY: Weekly Graystone Small Animal Auction Sale

	RANGE		RANGE
Muscovy Ducks - Drakes	1.20 - 1.25	Silkie	2.75 - 3.00ea.
Muscovy Ducks - Hens	.90 - 1.00	Geese 9-14 LBS	.50 - .60
Pekin Ducks	5.00 - 6.00ea.	Pigeons	2.10 - 2.50ea.
Red Fowl 4-5 LBS	.60 - .70	White Pigeons	3.00 - 3.50ea.
Red Fowl 5-6 LBS	.60 - .90	Rabbits 4-6 LBS	1.20 - 1.30
Crossbred Fowl 5-9 LBS	.75 - .80	Rabbits 6-9 LBS	1.00 - 1.20
Crossbred Roosters		Bunnies	2.00 - 4.00ea.
4-6 LBS	.90 - 1.10	Guinea Pigs	5.00 - 10.00ea.
Crossbred Roosters		Doves	2.50 - 3.50ea.
7-11 LBS	.80 - 1.05	Chukars	4.50ea.
Guinea Fowl	1.70 - 1.80	Pullets 4-6 LBS	.90 - .95
Banty Roosters	4.00 - 5.00ea.		
Banty Hens	2.75 - 3.00ea.	Total Coops Sold	350

**EASTERN REGION MISCELLANEOUS POULTRY**

FOR CURRENT DELIVERY FOR THE WEEK OF 29-DEC-2003  
**DUCKLINGS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A, 4-5 POUNDS, DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
LONG ISLAND	140	146
MOSTLY		
MIDWEST	124-128	125-130
MOSTLY		

**ROASTERS:** PRICES NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS, US GRADE A AND PLANT GRADE, 5 POUNDS AND UP, DELIVERED

	RANGE	MOSTLY
ICE PACKED (12 PER BOX)	72.00-75.50	74.00-75.50
VACUUM PACKED (6-9 PER BOX)	65.00-85.50	69.00-75.50

**SQUABS:** NEW YORK AREA WHOLESALE PRICES, FROZEN, PLANT GRADE, DOLLARS PER DOZEN, 1 TO 10 BOXES

12 OZ.	60.48-69.66
14 OZ.	66.96-76.14
16 OZ.	73.44-83.43

THE EASTERN REGION INCLUDES:

CT,DE,FL,GA,MA,MD,ME,NC,NH,NJ,NY,PA RI,SC,VA,VT,WV

**CENTRAL REGION DUCKLINGS** Prices remained unchanged. Trade sentiment steady. Demand was fairly good. Schedules reduced this week for the holiday. Weights were usually in a desirable range. Prices paid to first receivers for 10-18oz boneless breast at \$4.25-5.25, bone in legs at \$1.35-1.45, gizzards at \$1.35-1.40, wings at \$0.30-0.45, livers at \$0.75-1.70, and feet at \$0.80-1.15.

NEGOTIATED BY FIRST RECEIVERS FOR US GRADE A DELIVERED IN TRUCKLOT AND POOL TRUCKLOT QUANTITIES, 4-5 POUNDS, WEEK OF 29-DEC-2003

ORIGIN	FROZEN	FRESH
MIDWEST AND OTHERS	107-124	125
MOSTLY		

**ESTIMATED U.S. SLAUGHTER COMPARED TO  
 ESTIMATED FRYERS AVAILABLE FOR MARKETING.**

WEEK ENDING	SLAUGHTERED	AVAILABLE	PCT	AVG WT
NOVEMBER 22	153.1	149.1	103%	5.25
29	119.8	149.6	80%	5.35
DECEMBER 6	156.8	150.2	104%	5.45
13	155.4	150.2	103%	5.23
20	156.3	147.8	106%	5.34
27	114.4	145.8	78%	5.22
YEAR TO DATE	7914.3	7967.6	99%	
JANUARY 3		147.1		
10		151.1		

**BROILER/CATTLE/HOG WEEKLY ESTIMATED SLAUGHTER****Under Federal Inspection**

W/E	01/03/03	12/27/03	% CHG	01/04/03	% CHG
Broilers	133,267	113,075*	+17	126,793*	-5
Cattle	439	448	0	557*	0
Hogs	1,794	1,563	+14	1,728*	-3

\*ACTUAL

**NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET** Majority prices were generally unchanged on both light and heavy canners when compared to a week earlier. Demand was mostly moderate. Trading was limited. Available offerings were clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were less than normal due to holiday schedules. The undertone was steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
21-25.5 MAJORITY 23.5-24.5	29-36.5 MAJORITY 34-35

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

<b>LIGHT CANNER HENS</b>	<b>HEAVY CANNER HENS</b>
<b>(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)</b>	<b>(WITHOUT NECKS)</b>
23-28 MAJORITY 26	31.5-38 MAJORITY 35.5-37.5

#### **LIGHT TYPE HENS**

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS (INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

**EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HENS** Values were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was fair to moderate. Offerings of spent fowl were generally adequate for processing schedules that were less than normal due to the holiday. Opinions on removal cost were generally steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	0-12	10-11

**NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HENS** Prices were unchanged. Demand was light for this week with interest in additional spent fowl improving for next week as the shortened holiday weeks pass. Offerings were adequate. Opinions of value were steady.

	<b>RANGE</b>	<b>MAJORITY</b>
REMOVAL COST	0-12.5	10-12.25

**SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN** Costs of disposal were too few to report. Demand was light for fully adequate supplies of light hens. Schedules were reduced. Dressed sales were slow. Values were expected remain unchanged. **RANGE MAJORITY**

REMOVAL COST	TOO FEW TO REPORT
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**WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN** Plants worked lighter holiday schedules. Offerings adequate.

#### **HEAVY TYPE HENS (7 POUNDS AND UP) \***

PRELIMINARY PRICE, CENTS PER LB., GENERALLY FOR SLAUGHTER THE WEEK OF 05-JAN-04

**SOUTHEAST HEAVY LIVE HEN** Sales were too few to report prices. Demand was moderate for the about adequate to adequate offerings. Processing schedules were less than normal due to the holiday. Supplies of finished product were well cleared. The undertone was steady.

	<b>RANGE MAJORITY</b>
AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT

**SOUTH CENTRAL HEAVY LIVE HEN** Trading was too few to report. Demand was moderate for fully adequate offerings of spent hens. Schedules were reduced. Finished sales were fair. Trade sentiment was about steady. **RANGE MAJORITY**

AT FARM BUYER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
AT FARM PRODUCER LOADING	TOO FEW TO REPORT
FOB PLANT	TOO FEW TO REPORT

\* WEIGHTS UNDER 7 LBS. SUBJECT TO DISCOUNT.

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